

COVID-19 Safety Considerations for K-12 Schools

The Washington Ozaukee Public Health Department created these safety considerations for schools based on CDCⁱ guidance to monitor local transmission to inform decision making. This is an evolving process, and this document may be updated as new data becomes available and more of the population becomes eligible for vaccination.

All mitigation strategies provide some level of protection; layered strategies implemented at the same time provide the greatest level of protection. Schools should adopt mitigation measures to the largest extent practical.

Prioritized list of mitigation strategies to decrease the risk of transmission include:

- Promoting vaccination
- Consistent and correct use of masks
- Physical distancing maximized to the greatest extent possible
- Screening testing to promptly identify cases, clusters, and outbreaks
- Ventilation
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation of positive cases
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities

Using available local data, schools can choose which mitigation strategies to implement. Guidance provided in the table are general recommendations and subject to change.

COVID-19 Community Transmission Level & Percent Fully Vaccinated In the Past 7 Days, By County

	Low	Moderate	Substantial	High
Total New Cases Per 100,000	0-9	10-49	50-99	≥100
OR				
Percent Fully Vaccinated	>70%	70-60%	60-50%	<50%
Total Number of Mitigation Strategies	2	4	6	8

Vaccination

As of May 12th 2021, individuals age 12 and older are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. If you are looking for a location to receive a vaccine, please visit vaccines.gov. WOPHD is encouraging everyone to get the vaccine if eligible.

Per the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov), an individual is not considered fully vaccinated until two weeks after the 2nd dose of a 2-dose series vaccine or two weeks after a 1 dose shot.

Schools should continue to use current COVID-19 mitigation strategies until all ages have had an opportunity to become fully vaccinated. Schools can [promote vaccinations](#) among teachers, staff, families, and eligible students by

providing information about COVID-19 vaccination, encouraging vaccine trust and confidence, and establishing supportive policies and practices that make getting vaccinated as easy and convenient as possibleⁱ.

Testing

WOPHD recommends that anyone with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 be tested. Testing locations can be found at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/testing.htm>.

Further testing guidance provided by the CDC can be found [here](#).

Quarantine

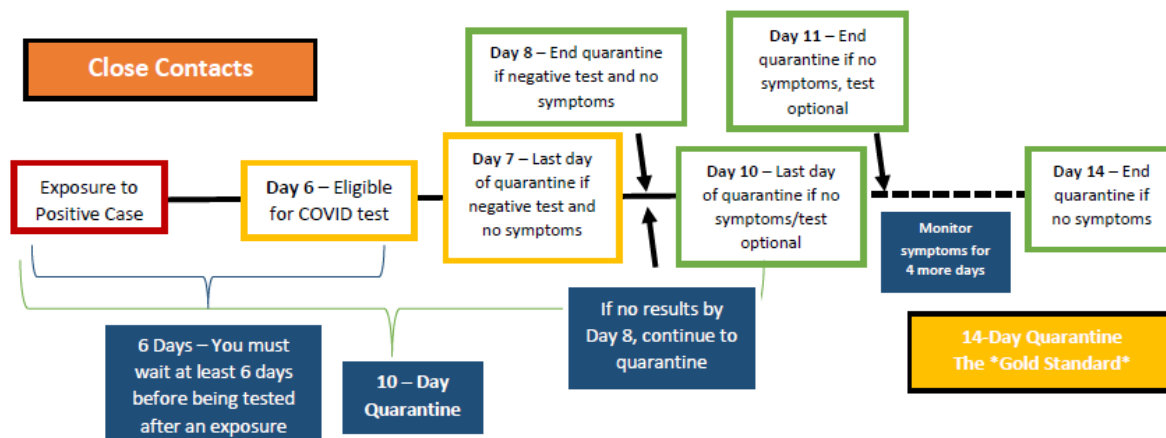
Individuals who are fully vaccinated or previously diagnosed with COVID-19, within the last 3 months, do not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms.

WOPHD recognizes that some schools have analyzed their own data regarding the percentage of close contacts that test positive after an exposure to a positive COVID-19 case. Based on the results of their analysis, some schools have chosen to adapt their procedures to avoid quarantining close contacts.

WOPHD recommends quarantining close contacts. Close contacts must stay home for 10 days from the date of the last exposure and to monitor symptoms.

A close contact is defined as an individual who has been within 6 feet of an infected person with COVID-19 for a cumulative period of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

For a shortened quarantine, individuals can be tested on day 6 and return to school as early as day 8 as long as they receive a negative test and remain symptom free, without testing individuals who remain symptom free can end quarantine on day 10.



Mitigation During Outdoor/Sporting Activities

Per the WIAA, [here](#) is the current Sports Considerations. As changes are made, we will update accordingly.

Research has indicated that outdoor activities pose minimal risk to transmit COVID-19; as such, you may consider changing policies to allow for the removal of masks for outdoor activities; this extension could also be extended to athletes and spectators at outdoor sporting events.

ⁱ Centers for Disease Control. (2021). Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools for Phased Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>